



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Information Officer
(409) 839-2538 office
(409) 553-9881 cell*

BEAUMONT MAN SENTENCED FOR COOKING METH IN WEST END HOME

(Lufkin, TX) A 32-year-old Beaumont man has been sentenced to 87 months in federal prison for cooking methamphetamine in his West End home. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON** was sentenced by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield today.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the actions of those who alerted authorities to this situation, "Not only were the children in this neighborhood at risk from drug dealers, but they were exposed to a possible fire, explosion, or inhaling of toxic chemicals."

According to information presented by prosecutors, on February 28, 2005, Hamilton was arrested while manufacturing methamphetamine at his home in a highly populated West End neighborhood. Law enforcement officers located a clandestine methamphetamine lab inside the residence after neighbors reported a strange odor in the neighborhood. Officers determined the source of the odor was a large tank of anhydrous ammonia that had leaked inside the garage.

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Hamilton was indicted on March 2, 2005, and pleaded guilty on May 16, 2005, to endangering human life while manufacturing a controlled substance.

This case is part of the ongoing Methbusters Initiative. Methbusters is an aggressive program implemented in June, 2004 to address the growing problem of methamphetamine trafficking in East Texas. The United States Attorney's Office has joined with law enforcement to aggressively investigate and prosecute those involved with the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine and the chemicals used in its production. For more information on the dangers of methamphetamine in the United States, visit: www.MethResources.gov.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Beaumont Police Department, and the Beaumont Fire Department investigated this case. Assistant U. S. Attorney Michelle Englade prosecuted the case.

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